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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO [redacted]

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TOPIC Columns of Soviet Tank and Engineer Units near HALBE

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PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

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DATE OF CONTENT [redacted] 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 19 August 1949

REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [redacted]

REMARKS [redacted]

SOURCE

1. Soviet motorized columns were observed proceeding northwest on the autobahn near HALBE (N 53/V 00) on 13 July 1949. The

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[redacted] The following materiel was observed:

About 60 "T 34" tanks
 60 to 70 SP guns on T 34 chassis with extraordinarily short gun barrels
 About 100 armored reconnaissance cars
 About 100 trucks, each occupied by 14 troops armed with carbines or submachine guns
 About 70 trucks loaded with engineer equipment, including bridge sections, bridge building equipment, round timber, pontoons and assault boats.

2. Between the columns, at a distance of about 650 feet, were four Studebaker trucks, each occupied by 25 Soviet Zone police. Thirty-eight such trucks were counted. The police were armed with carbines. The Soviet columns were continually circled by Soviet Zone police on BMW motorcycles who prevented civilians looking closely.

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COMMENT: [redacted]

The report is forwarded with reservations. According to their composition, the columns may have belonged to tank units of a mechanized division (9th Mecz Div (Cadre)?). It is possible that troops from the COTTBUS-LUEBBEN area may have gone to the JUETERBOG-LUCKENWALDE area for maneuvers in mid-July 1949. No other sources have reported that units being transferred

[redacted] and were escorted by Soviet Zone police.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
 Next Review Date: 2008

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